

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

/101 W

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P R 091118Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0977

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 1245

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNGA QA KS KN

SUBJ: KOREA AT 30TH UNGA: QATAR

REF: DOHA 1210 AND 1203; STATE 259571; JIDDA 7416; USUN
5673 AND 5701

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR HAS EXPRESSED TO GOQ USG'S DISAPPOINTMENT
WITH ITS ABSTENTION ON FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. GOQ REP SUGGESTED
THERE WAS MISUNDERSTANDING RE INDICATION THAT QATARIS WOULD
VOTE POSITIVELY ON RESOLUTION. JAPANESE CHARGE, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS,
HAS EXPRESSED SIMILAR DISAPPOINTMENT AND ASKED FOR CHANGE OF
POSITION IN PLENARY. AMBASSADOR WILL FOLLOW UP WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER AT APPROPRIATE TIME. BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER, HOWEVER,
WE WISH TO KNOW STATUS OF SWEDISH COMPROMISE EFFORT, AND WHETHER
DEPARTMENT PREPARED TO MAKE MAXIMUM EFFORT IN TURNING QATARIS
AROUND BY REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM UK, FRENCH AND SAUDIS.
END SUMMARY.

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2. ON NOV, I EXPRESSED TO QATARI FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, ABDULLAH AL ATTIAH, USG'S KEEN DISAPPOINTMENT WITH GOQ'S ABSTENTION ON FRIENDLY RESOLUTION, PARTICULARLY SINCE ALL INDICATIONS FROM GOQ HAD BEEN FOR POSITIVE VOTE. I EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO KOREAN QUESTION, SINCE IT FRONT LINE SECURITY ISSUE FOR U.S.

3. ATTIAH RESPONDED THAT GOQ HAD DETERMINED THAT KOREAN QUESTION WAS A COMPLICATED AND CONTENTIOUS ISSUE IN WHICH GOQ DID NOT WISH TO BECOME INVOLVED, SO IT HAD ABSTAINED. ATTIAH STRESSED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO RPT NO "DECEIT" IN QATARI POSITION, AND SUGGESTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A "MISUNDERSTANDING" IN OUR BELIEF THAT GOQ WOULD SUPPORT FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. RATHER, CLAIMED ATTIAH, QATARIS HAD AGREED ONLY NOT RPT NOT TO VOTE "AGAINST" U.S.-SUPPORTED RESOLUTION. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE EXPLAINED THAT GOQ HAD ADOPTED "NEUTRAL" POSITION BY ABSTAINING ON PROCEDURAL ISSUE AND BOTH FRIENDLY AND HOSTILE RESOLUTIONS. HE FURTHER CONTENDED THAT WE HAD BEEN ON NOTICE THAT FINAL QATARI POSITION WOULD BE DETERMINED BY ACTUAL SITUATION DURING VOTING IN NY, AND THIS HAD DICTATED ABSTENTION TO CONFORM TO GREAT MAJORITY OF OTHER ARABS AND NONALIGNED COUNTRIES.

4. I REJECTED ATTIAH'S SUGGESTION THAT WE HAD MISUNDERSTOOD QATARI INTENTIONS. I SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER HIMSELF IN SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH ME ON SUBJECT HAD CLEARLY INDICATED GOQ'S SUPPORT FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. IN ADDITION, VISITING ROK REPS, GOJ AND OTHERS HAD ALSO BEEN CONVINCED THAT QATARIS WOULD VOTE POSITIVELY, AND IT SEEMED HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ALL OF US WOULD HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD. FURTHERMORE, QATARI ABSTENTION HAD BEEN STEP BACK FROM ITS POSITION AT 29TH GA, AND HAD DEVIATED FROM USUAL GOQ PRACTICE OF VOTING WITH SAUDIS ON SUCH QUESTIONS. ATTIAH STUCK TO HIS "MISUNDERSTANDING" THEME, OBSERVING THAT ABSTENTION WAS ONLY SENSIBLE COURSE FOR SMALL STATE LIKE QATAR WHICH MUST MAINTAIN "NEUTRAL" STANCE IN SUCH A SITUATION.

5. I URGED THAT GOQ VOTE POSITIVELY ON FRIENDLY RESOLUTION IN PLENARY. ATTIAH SAID THAT PRESENT DISPOSITION OF GOQ IS TO MAINTAIN ABSTENTION POSTURE, BUT THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER ARABS WERE CURRENTLY IN PROCESS. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT COMPLETELY PRECLUDE A CHANGE IN GOQ VOTE, HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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HIGHLY IMPROBABLE. I TOLD ATTIAH THAT I WOULD BE TAKING OUR VIEWS DIRECTLY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME. HE AGREED THAT I SHOULD DO SO, AND SAID THAT HE WOULD BRIEF THE MINISTER ON OUR CONVERSATION IN THE MEANTIME.

6. JAPANESE CHARGE INFORMED US NOV 7 THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM TOKYO TO QUERY GOQ ON ITS ABSTENTION AND PRESS FOR POSITIVE VOTE IN PLENARY. ACCORDING JAPANESE CHARGE,

HE SOUGHT APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BUT WAS DIRECTED TO POLITICAL DIRECTOR ATTIYAH, WHOM HE SAW ON NOV 8. ATTIYAH TOOK LINE SIMILAR TO THAT HE FOLLOWED IN DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR. HE CLAIMED GOQ ABSTENTION CONSISTENT WITH VOTING TREND AMONG MAJORITY OF NON-ALIGNED STATES. JAPANESE CHARGE SAID THAT HE HAD POINTED TO SAUDIS POSITIVE VOTE ON FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AND TO GOJ'S UNDERSTANDING THAT QATARIS WOULD FOLLOW SAUDI LEAD. ATTIYAH HAD RESPONDED THAT IT HAD INDEED BEEN QATARI'S PLAN TO FOLLOW SAUDIS, BUT "LAST MINUTE" CHANGE HAD BEEN ORDERED BY "HIGHER AUTHORITY". (COMMENT: IT IS POSSIBLE THAT AMIR COUNTER-MANDED FOREIGN MINISTER'S INSTRUCTIONS, PRODUCING QATARI ABSTENTION INSTEAD OF INDICATED POSITIVE VOTE -- DOHA 1203; USUN 5673; PARIS 28013).

7. ACCORDING JAPANESE CHARGE, HE OFFICIALLY PRESSED ATTIYAH THAT GOQ CHANGE ITS POSITION TO POSITIVE VOTE ON FRIENDLY RESOLUTION IN PLENARY. ATTIYAH PROMISED THAT HE WOULD CONVEY GOJ REQUEST TO FOREIGN MINISTER. JAPANESE CHARGE SAID THAT HE IS PREPARED TO INSIST ON APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER JUST BEFORE PLENARY VOTE IS SCHEDULED TO URGE GOQ POSITIVE VOTE. BASED ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH ATTIYAH, JAPANESE CHARGE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT THERE SOME CHANCE OF QATARI SUPPORT FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION IN PLENARY.

8. COMMENT: WHILE WE APPRECIATE THAT EVERY POSITIVE VOTE FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION IS IMPORTANT, WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH EFFORT USG WILLING TO EXPAND OUTSIDE OF DOHA ON TURNING GOQ AROUND. IF QATARI VOTE WORTH A MAXIMUM EFFORT, WE RECOMMEND THAT WE INSPIRE DEMARCHES IN DOHA TO FOREIGN MINISTER FROM UK, FRENCH AND SAUDI AMBASSADORS. AT THIS STAGE THIS WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF REACHING GOQ SINCE REPRESENTATIONS MADE TO QATARI ENVOYS ABROAD ARE RARELY COMMUNICATED EFFICIENTLY TO DOHA. FOR EXAMPLE, SAG EFFORT IN JIDDA WON'T CUT MUCH ICE HERE (JIDDA 7416). IN
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ADDITION, WE STILL DO NOT KNOW WHETHER SWEDISH COMPROMISE EFFORT WILL COME INTO PICTURE, AND, IF IT DOES, THIS COULD ALTER OUR LOBBYING STRATEGY (USUN 5556).

9. COMMENT CONTINUED: AMBASSADOR WILL RAISE QATARI ABSTENTION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRESS FOR SUPPORT OF US POSITION IN PLENARY AT APPROPRIATE TIME, PREFERABLY SHORTLY BEFORE VOTE IN GA SINCE GOQ HAS VERY BRIEF ATTENTION SPAN. IN MEANTIME, WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED WHETHER DEPT WILL ASK UK, GOF AND SAG TO WEIGHT IN HERE. IF SO, THESE DEMARCHES SHOULD PRECEDE OURS. QUITE FRANKLY WE DO NOT SHARE JAPANESE OPTIMISM ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF GOQ'S CHANGING ITS VOTE, SINCE ITS TYPICAL HEADS DOWN DIPLOMACY WOULD INDICATE ITS MAINTAINING "NEUTRAL" ABSTENTION STANCE. NEVERTHELESS, WE WILL MAKE OUR DISPLEASURE CLEAR TO GOQ AT A HIGH LEVEL AND COORDINATE AN EFFORT BY

OTHERS TO CHANGE GOQ POSITION IF DEPT WISHES TO GO THAT ROUTE.

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